



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927
Registered Charity No.278885

Newsletter. November 21st 2018

Dear member,

Although it's not very long since the last newsletter, quite a lot seems to be happening (or not happening). So I thought that another communication might help to keep everyone up to date.

First of all, the unveiling of the Kipling statue at Burwash has unfortunately had to be postponed until next year. Also, we have also included the contact details of our new Membership Secretary, who has now taken up her role. Please send all subscription payments and enquiries to Fiona from now on, please.

There's a report on the meeting last week for those who couldn't attend and news of the Mowgli film to be released on Netflix early next month.

I have also included several other news items - and a curiosity. You'll have to read the newsletter to see what these are.

Best wishes for the festive season and for the New Year.

Mike Kipling

Chairman The Kipling Society

REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S LAST MEETING

On Wednesday the 14th of November twenty members gathered at the Royal Overseas League to listen to an interesting talk from Dr John Anders.

Following his career as an aeronautical engineer, John took up the humanities in his retirement and Kipling in particular, owing to what John calls 'an indefinable attractive quality in his writing.' He recently completed his PhD at the University of Kent titled 'The Spirit of the Jest: Humour, Incongruity and Kipling's engagement with Modernity', an investigation of the various functions which humour performs in Kipling's fiction.

John began by giving us an overview of his thesis, referring to the French philosopher Henri Bergson and his great work 'Laughter: an Essay on the Meaning of the Comic' (1900).

In the second part of his talk, John concentrated upon an extract from a letter written by Kipling to his American friend Dr Conland in June 1897, in which he describes a day's outing on a new type of naval vessel—the torpedo boat.

John argued that the description of this 'demonic machine' exemplifies the manner in which Kipling's fundamental values can be disturbed and threatened by the technological marvels that so impressed him, and how he evolves a model of 'cosmic humour' to reconcile humans and machines.

Following John's talk, a spirited group discussion ensued which took in practical jokes in Kipling's stories, the difference between a 'joke' and a 'jest', heroic nonchalance, and false teeth. A reference to these latter 'rattling around in my head' when the torpedo boat accelerated above thirty knots revealed that Kipling had a complete set of dentures at the age of thirty-one!

Alex Bubb, Meetings Secretary

FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 13 February 2019 5.30 for 6 pm in the Rutland Room, Royal Overseas League: **Kipling and Rider Haggard**, a joint meeting with the Rider Haggard Society.

Wednesday 10 April 2019 5.30 for 6 pm in the Rutland Room, Royal Overseas League: **Stephen Ridgwell** 'Some land the Law calls mine': Kipling and the Edwardian Countryside.

Wednesday 8th May at the Army & Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 3JN at 12.30 for 1 pm: Annual Luncheon of the Kipling Society. Speaker: **Professor Daniel Karlin** on 'Rudyard Kipling and Robert Browning'

Wednesday 10 July 2019 4.30 in the Rutland Room, Royal Overseas League: Kipling Society Annual General Meeting. 5.30 for 6 pm: Dr Jarad Zimble (University of Birmingham), title TBC.

JUST SO – THE MUSICAL - A REMINDER



The Barn Theatre at Cirencester will be putting on a production based on the Just So Stories in December and January. Full details can be found at <https://barntheatre.org.uk/performances>.

The Society has helped with funding, so please do attend if you possibly can.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Dr Fiona Renshaw has now taken up the role of Membership Secretary. She can be contacted at ksmemsec@outlook.com or at Keylands, Burwash, East Sussex TN19 7HP.

KIPLING STATUE IN BURWASH

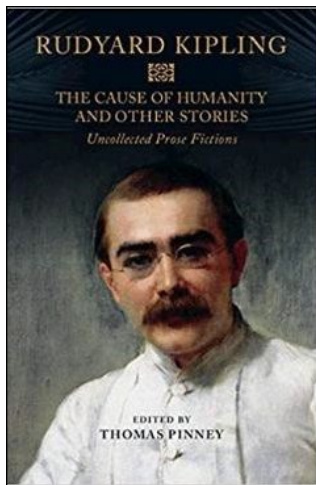
Unfortunately, the unveiling of the Kipling statue has had to be deferred until February or March 2019. This is because it turned out to be necessary to close the road through the village for the ceremony and permission for this could not be obtained in December.

We will provide further details when they become known to us. We do still intend to arrange a lunch and visit to Bateman's to coincide with the unveiling.

If you can't wait, the sculptor Vicki Atkins, has made a limited edition of eight bronze casts of the head (right). The cost is £3,200. Contact atkinsonvicki@aol.com



AN ITEM FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT LIST



The Cause of Humanity and Other Stories: Rudyard Kipling's Uncollected Prose Fictions

Edited by Thomas Pinney (*now available*)

“This volume brings together for the first time some 86 uncollected short fictions. Almost all of them will be unfamiliar to readers; some are unrecorded in any bibliography; some are here published for the first time. Most of them come from Kipling's Indian years, and show him experimenting with a great variety of forms and tones.

We see the young Kipling enjoying the exercise of his craft; yet the voice that emerges throughout is always unmistakably his own, changing the scene every time the curtain is raised.”

KIPLING ON TV

We were pleased to see that the life and works of Kipling were chosen as a specialist subject on Mastermind on 16 November. The questions were fairly straightforward but the contestant did not, alas, win through to the next round.

Also, Channel 5 are currently filming the next series of 'The Secrets of the National Trust'. Bateman's will be one of the properties included and filming will shortly take place there. Our Librarian and immediate past Chairman, John Walker, will be being interviewed about Kipling, the war and John.

Watch out for it being broadcast, probably early next year.

KIPLING AND JOURNALISM

We are in discussion with City University to host a joint conference in early 2020 on Kipling and Journalism. Further details will follow next year, when a call for papers will be issued.

MOWGLI– LEGEND OF THE JUNGLE



Netflix have announced that 'Mowgli' will be released to subscribers on 7th December:

"Acclaimed actor and director Andy Serkis reinvents Rudyard Kipling's beloved masterpiece, in which a boy torn between two worlds accepts his destiny and becomes a legend. Mowgli has never truly belonged in either the wilds of the jungle or the civilized world of man. Now he must navigate the inherent dangers of each on a journey to discover where he truly belongs"

See the trailer now at <https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/80993105>

BATEMAN'S



The house will be decorated for Christmas with a *Just So Stories* theme.

For further details, see

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/batemans/features/christmas-at-batemans-2018>

ENDNOTE - CARRIE'S DEATH CERTIFICATE

Volunteers at Bateman's are often asked whether Kipling or Carrie died in the house. Kipling of course did not, but as can be seen below, his widow did.

Registration District BATTLE. 2A									
1939. DEATHS in the Sub-District of TICEHURST in the County of EAST SUSSEX.									
Columns —	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
137	Twentieth December 1939 Bateman's Burwash Rd	Caroline Starr Kipling	Female	74 years	Widow of Rudyard Kipling an Author	On Coronary Thrombosis & Arterial Atheroma (w) Diabetes Certified by A.W.S. Curries M.R.C.S.	Cicely S. Nicholson Sunnate Bateman's Burwash Sussex	Twentieth December 1939	W. J. Lord Registrar

The Cicely Nicholson who registered the death was Kipling's secretary at the time of his death and presumably continued to work for Carrie afterwards.

Mike Kipling, November 21st 2018